

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:M TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 2527

UNCLAS STATE 153528

E.O. 11652: N/A

FOL SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK DEPT OF  
DEFENSE JUN 29, 1975 FROM VIENTIANE

QUOTE UNCLAS VIENTIANE 4617

USIAC

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SEMMICE, IEA/L,  
IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VOA AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJ: USINFO

1. THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE, AMERICAN EMBASSY  
GENERAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION AND AN EMBASSY HOUSING COMPOUND --  
SEIZED BY A PROTEST GROUP IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF SATURDAY,  
JUNE 28 -- CONTINUED UNDER OCCUPATION JUNE 29. WHILE AMERICANS  
HAVE BEEN ALLOWED PERIODIC ACCESS TO THE HOUSING COMPOUND IN  
ORDER TO REMOVE PERSONAL EFFECTS AND HAVE BEEN TOLD THEY MAY  
REMAIN THERE, ALL EIGHT PERSONS LIVING IN THE 18-HOUSE COM-  
PLEX HAVE TEMPORARILY MOVED. ACCESS TO THE U.S. INFORMATION  
SERVICE AND EMBASSY GENERAL SERVICES AREA HAS BEEN COMPLETELY  
DENIED BY COMBINATION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE NOW-DISSOLVED  
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AID ORGANIZATION, PATHET LAO SOLDIERS AND OTHERS.

THE PROTEST GROUP HAS YET TO INDICATE ITS PURPOSES. HOWEVER, ON SATURDAY EVENING A LEAFLET WAS DISTRIBUTED ATTACKING UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, A PRIVATE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR LOCATED ON THE EMBASSY GENERAL SERVICES COMPOUND, AS "A HIDING PLACE FOR SPIES". THE STATEMENT ALSO ACCUSED THE U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE OF "SPREADING A DECADENT CULTURE AND PROPAGATING NEO-COLONIALISM." WHILE THE PROTEST STATEMENT SAID THE GROUP HAD "SEIZED" THESE TWO INSTALLATIONS, IT DESCRIBED THE ACTION DIRECTED AT THE HOUSING COMPOUND, WHICH IS OWNED BY THE EMBASSY, AS ONE OF "SUPERVISION." IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH U.S. OFFICIALS PROTESTORS ACKNOWLEDGE THE HOUSING COMPLEX IS U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

EMBASSY OFFICIALS ARE CONTINUING THEIR ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE LAO GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS MATTER AND HAVE OFFERED TO ESCORT LAO OFFICIALS THROUGH THE ENTIRE GENERAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION COMPOUND AND ANSWER ANY INQUIRIES ABOUT ITS, UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES OR THE U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE'S FUNCTION. (TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DID IN FACT TOUR GSO ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 28.)

2. MEANWHILE, SVEN BERGGREN, A 40-YEAR-OLD SWEDISH CITIZEN EMPLOYED BY UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES NEJP HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY THESE SAME PROTESTERS AT 0930 SATURDAY MORNING AND HELD FOR TEN HOURS, WAS RELEASED THE SAME EVENING AFTER HE HAD SIGNED A DOCUMENT RELATING TO THE SEVERANCE PAY FOR LAO EMPLOYEES OF UAE.

SINCE 1974 BERGGREN HAS WORKED ON A GENERATOR CONTRACT THE TOKYO-BASED FIRM HELD WITH THE NOW TERMINATED USAID MISSION OF LAOS. HE HAS LIVED IN LAOS SINCE 1965.

3. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE CONTINUES ITS REDUCTION OF MISSION PERSONNEL IN THE LAO CAPITAL. TWENTY-TWO OFFICIAL AMERICANS REMAIN IN VIENTIANE.  
DAKS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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